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ALPHABETS OF THE MODERN SLAVIC LANGUAGES.

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THE TABLES AND ACCOMPANYING EXPLANATIONS IN THIS OUTLINE ARE INTENDED FOR THE NON-SPECIALIST IN SLAVIC LANGUAGES WHO WISHES TO LEARN THE APPROXIMATE PRONUNCIATION AND TRANSLITERATION OF WORDS WRITTEN IN THE SLAVIC ALPHABET. EACH ALPHABET TREATED (CZECH, RUSSIAN, UKRAINIAN, BIELORUSSIAN, BULGARIAN, SLOVENIAN, SERBO-CROATIAN, POLISH, CHURCH SLAVIC, AND MACEDONIAN) IS PRESENTED SEPARATELY IN TABLE FORM. A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ADOPTION AND USE OF EACH ALPHABET IS GIVEN WITH APPROXIMATE ENGLISH EQUIVALENTS FOR SOME OF THE SOUNDS REPRESENTED BY THE CYRILLIC OR LATIN LETTERS. THIS DOCUMENT IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR $0.75 FROM THE AUTHOR, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, PITTSBURGH, PA. 15213. (JD)

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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1967

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Preface

The following tables and accompanying explanations were first prepared in 1959 and issued in form of a preprint in 1964. They are intended for students and other non-specialists in Slavic languages, who however in their reading of history, current affairs, and the like may encounter names or quotations in a Slavic alphabet and wish to approximate the local pronunciation, or who may need to know how to transliterate an occasional word or title from the various Cyrillic alphabets. Some background information is also given on the origin and history of the various alphabets used by the modern Slavic nations.

It should go without saying that these remarks on the Slavic alphabets are not intended as a treatise on Slavic phonetics or to serve as materials for pronunciation instruction in a language course. The English sounds given as approximate equivalents are just that, a rough guide to the pronunciation of Slavic place and personal names and to give some idea of the sounds represented by the various letters. Among hints which may be helpful to persons with some knowledge of phonetics are the following; dental sounds(t d n) in Slavic languages, as in French, Spanish, German, etc., are pronounced with the tongue touching the back surface of the upper teeth

(i.e. further front than in English); voiceless stops (p t k) as in French, Spanish or Italian, never have the aspiration (h-like puff of breath) that follows them in some positions in English, r is always a flap or trill (as in Spanish or Italian).

Slavicists will detect that my views on Bulgarian phonology (as regards palatalization) are not the traditional ones; however, I regard my interpretation as thoroughly supported by the researches of myself, Hodge, Van Campen, and Ornstein.

Finally, thanks are due to Miss Roberta Eholt, who typed the text of this edition, as well as to Mrs. Cecilia Avner, who typed the text of the preprint.

Alphabets used by the Slavs.

All modern Slavic nations use one of two kinds of letters to write their language, either the Latin letters, which are also used to write English and the other languages of Western Europe, or Cyrillic letters. Latin alphabets are used by the Poles, Czechs, Slovaks, Wends, Slovenes, and Croats, that is, those Slavic peoples who accepted Christianity from the Western (Roman) church, while Cyrillic alphabets are used by the Russians, Bielorussians, Ukrainians, Bulgarians, Macedonians, and Serbs, that is, those Slavic peoples who accepted Christianity from the Eastern (Byzantine) church. Note that Serbo-Croatian, which is one language, may be written with two alphabets, the Latin, used by the Roman Catholic Croats, and the Cyrillic, used by the Orthodox Serbs. Bielorussian and Carpatho-Russian (a variety of Ukrainian) are also occasionally written with Latin letters by Byzantine Catholic (Uniate) groups (i.e. groups which, while retaining all or part of the customs and ritual of the Eastern Church, are in communion with Rome).

The Cyrillic alphabet is named after St. Cyril of Salonika, who together with his brother St. Methodius, carried on, under Byzantine auspices, missionary work

among the Slavs in Moravia, in the nineth century. Cyril and Methodius, known as the holy brothers of Salonika or the apostles of the Slavs, translated portions of the Bible and certain liturgical works into Old Church Slavic, a language based mainly upon the dialect of Slavic tribes then settled on the outskirts of Salonika. As the languages spoken by the individual Slavic peoples were only starting to differentiate, Old Church Slavic was very close to the spoken language of all the Slavs of that time. Cyril and Methodius were the first to write in a Slavic Language and, of necessity, had to create a writing system. However, the alphabet we call Cyrillic was probably not the one invented by St. Cyril. St. Cyril's alphabet was probably the glagolitic alphabet, in which our oldest Church Slavic manuscripts are written and which was widely used in Croatia until modern times, and is still used to a very limited extent in liturgical books utilized by the Catholic Church in some parts of Croatia. The alphabet we know as Cyrillic was apparently adopted by the followers of Cyril and Methodius in Bulgaria (where they had retired at the invitation of the Czar of the Bulgars as a more favorable field for their activities, after encountering opposition from western oriented missionaries in Moravia).

The Cyrillic alphabet is quite obviously an adaptation of the Greek alphabet (in the manuscript style then in use) with the addition of certain letters (taken from the glagolitic to represent Slavic sounds not occurring in Greek). On the other hand, whether Cyril when inventing the glagolitic alphabet used some existing alphabet as a model (cursive Latin, cursive Greek, Hebrew, and other alphabets have all been suggested) or simply made the forms up (as appears likely to me) remains obscure.

I. The Russian Alphabet

In the middle ages those Slavic nations which remained under the influence of Byzantium continued to use the Cyrillic writing system as developed for Old Church Slavic, though in the course of time the languages changed, so that it was no longer ideal (though still fairly well suited) for representing the sounds of the Slavic tongues.

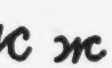
In Russia, Peter the Great, as part of his westernization program, decreed the adoption of a modified Cyrillic alphabet whose chief difference from the older Cyrillic alphabet was the adaptation of the form of the letters to a style similar to that of western Latin printed letters. In this sense the older Cyrillic

alphabet is analogous to the "black letter" manuscript style of the Latin alphabets, while Peter's new Cyrillic alphabet is analogous to the modern printed style. It also definitely dropped some letters, such as Ѫ and Ѧ, but these had already fallen out of use in writing Russian. Peter's alphabet, the graždanka ("civil" alphabet, as opposed to the older ecclesistical alphabet), has served as a basis not only for the modern Russian alphabet, but also for all other modern Cyrillic alphabets (Ukrainian, Bulgarian, etc.).

After the Bolshevik revolution the new government decreed a further reform of the writing system. In addition to making certain changes in the rules of spelling, the abolition of four letters was decreed, which were not necessary for writing Russian as they represented the same sound as other letters of the alphabet.

The table opposite gives the letters of the present-day Russian alphabet together with a transliteration and an indication of pronunciation. For an example of the old-style (pre-graždanka Cyrillic) used for Church Slavic, see the addendum on the final page.

THE PRESENT RUSSIAN ALPHABET

i.	ii.	iii.	iv.
А а		a	far
Б б		b	bed
В в		v	vet
Г г		g	get
Д д		d	debt
Е е		e	set, yet
Ё ё		ë	for, yore
Ж ж		ž (zh)	measure
З з		z	zip
И и		i	machine
Й й		j (i, y)	yaw, boy
К к		k	kept
Л л		l	whole
М м		m	man
Н н		n	net
О о		o	for
П п		p	pet

i.	ii.	iii.	iv.
Р р		r	(trilled r)
С с		s	set
Т т		t	tip
У у		u	boot
Ф ф		f	far
Х х		x (kh)	Bach, loch
Ц ц		c (ts)	tsetse
Ч ч		č (ch)	chip
Ш ш		š (sh)	shore
Щ щ		šč (shch)	(long sh or sh+ch)
Ъ ъ		"	--
Ы ы		y	unstressed vowel of just ("jist")
Ь ь		'	--
Э э		è	Ed
Ю ю		ju (iu, yu)	boot, Utah
Я я		ja (ia, ya)	far, yacht

i. - printed form ii. - handwritten form iii. - transliteration

iv. - approximated pronunciation, indicated by underlined letters

The transliteration given is the scientific one, accepted by the international scholarly community. Where a popular variant exists, it is given in parantheses. Note that the pronunciation given in terms of English sounds can only be a very rough approximation!

In learning the Russian alphabet it may be useful to note the following:

Five letters are similar to English letters in form and sound:

A Е О К М Т

Five letters have the same form as English letters, but represent a different sound:

У В Н Р Х

If you know the Greek alphabet, you will readily recognize some letters taken from it:

А Е О Г П Р Ф Х К М Т В

(note that beta in Modern Greek is pronounced v)

Others borrowed from the Greek alphabet will not look so familiar, since the Cyrillic alphabet was based on a medieval Greek manuscript style slightly different from that used in modern printed texts; these are Д (delta) З (zeta) И (eta) Л (lamda) Н (nu) У (ypsilon) С (sigma). Note that only four Russian letters have forms which differ, other than in size, between the printed capital and small letters: А а Б б Е е Ф ф.

Most Russian consonant sounds are either palatalized or non-palatalized (in non-technical -- though slightly inaccurate -- terms palatalized means pronounced as if followed immediately by a y-like sound, somewhat like f in English few). Now it is a trick of Russian spelling that the palatalization is indicated not by the consonant letter, but by the vowel letter that follows; thus for the five Russian vowels there are ten letters -- two each, one used after palatalized letters, one after non-palatalized.

1. я е и ё ю indicate preceding consonant is palatalized
2. а э ы о у indicate preceding consonant is non-palatalized

When vowels of the first row occur at the beginning of a word or after a vowel or ъ or ь, they are also preceded by a stronger y-sound. When no vowel follows a palatalized consonant, its palatalization is indicated by the "soft sign" ь whose only function is as palatalization indicator.

Prior to the latest reform (before the Bolshevik revolution), the following letters were in use:

I and V, equal in sound to and now replaced by И

Ѣ identical in sound to and now replaced by Е

Ѳ identical in sound to and now replaced by Ф

In addition, a silent ъ was written at the end of every word ending in a consonant. The letter ъ's occurrence in the present spelling is very rare and it is now sometimes replaced by an apostrophe.

The diaresis (¨) over accented ë pronounced o is also frequently omitted.

As in English, the handwritten forms of the letters sometimes vary widely from the printed forms. The italic printed style of Russian and other Cyrillic alphabets is based on the handwritten letter forms.

In the remaining Cyrillic alphabet tables, the alphabet symbols will be given in printed upper and lower case form, followed by a transliteration. The transliteration will also indicate pronunciation, since items transliterated with the same letter as in Russian are assumed to have the same pronunciation as the item transliterated by that letter in Russian, except as indicated in the accompanying remarks.

II. The Ukrainian alphabet.

The Ukrainian alphabet, which was developed from the Russian alphabet in the course of the 19th century, is as follows:

А	а	a	З	з	z	Н	н	n	Х	х	x
Б	б	b	И	и	y	О	о	o	Ц	ц	c
В	в	v	І	і	i	П	п	p	Ч	ч	č
Г	г	h	Ї	ї	ji	Р	р	r	Ш	ш	š
Д	д	d	Й	й	j	С	с	s	Щ	щ	šč (pronounced shch)
Е	е	e	К	к	k	Т	т	t	Ю	ю	ju
Є	є	je	Л	л	l	У	у	u	Я	я	ja
Ж	ж	ž	М	м	m	Ф	ф	f	Ь	ь	'

Note that Ukrainian Г is pronounced h. The sound g is indicated in Ukrainian by a "hook" on the Г , thus. However, the "hooked" Г is no longer in use in Soviet Ukraine. Other differences from Russian are in the vowel letters. Ukrainian follows the same system as Russian in indicating consonant palatalization by following vowel, but unfortunately, does not always use the same symbols as Russian:

Here is the Ukrainian system:

я є і ьо ю ь	(preceding consonant palatalized)
а е и о у	(preceding consonant non-palatalized)

Note these differences from Russian: и indicates у (i.e. Russian ы) and е indicates non-palatalizing е (i.e. Russian э). The letters і and є are peculiar to Ukrainian, not being used in modern Russian.

III The Bielorussian Alphabet.

The Bielorussian alphabet, developed from the Russian alphabet quite recently, as follows:

А а a	З з z	П п p	Ц ц c
Б б b	І і i	Р р r	Ч ч č
В в v	Й й j	С с s	Ш ш š
Г г h	К к k	Т т t	Ы ы y
Д д d	Л л l	У у u	Ь ь '
Е е e	М м m	Ў ў w or ŭ	Э э è
Ё ё jo or ë	Н н n	Ф ф f	Ю ю ju
Ж ж ž	О о o	Х х x	Я я ja

Note that Bielorussian Г , like Ukrainian, is h. Indication of preceding consonant palatalization is performed by the following vowel signs:

я е і ё ю ь (preceding consonant palatalized)

а э ы о у (preceding consonant non-palatalized)

In Bielorussian the dieresis (two dots) is never omitted from the ё, as it often is in Russian printing or writing.

IV. The Bulgarian alphabet.

Modern Bulgarian first began to be written around the beginning of the nineteenth century using the Cyrillic alphabet of Old Church Slavic. A little later a modified version of the Russian graždanka was introduced. There have been a large number of spelling "reforms" or changes of spelling rules in Bulgaria; the latest, after World War II, resulted in the dropping of certain superfluous letters.

The Bulgarian alphabet is as follows:

А а a	К к k	Ф ф f
Б б b	Л л l	Х х x (or h)
В в v	М м m	Ц ц c
Г г g	Н н n	Ч ч č
Д д d	О о o	Ш ш š
Е е e	П п p	Щ щ št
Ж ж ž	Р р r	Ъ ъ ə (or ă, ŭ)
З з z	С с s	ьо jo
И и i	Т т t	Ю ю ju
Й й j	У у u	Я я ja

Bulgarian has no distinctive palatalization. Hence it lacks the "double series" of vowel letters occuring in Russian. The last three symbols of the alphabet indicate vowel preceded by й (y-sound).

Bulgarian ъ (ə) is not "silent" but indicates a sound like the vowel of English <u>but</u>. щ is not šč as in Russian, but št. ь is written only before o as in актьор "actor". In material written before 1945 one may find the letters ѫ equal to ъ and ѣ equalling either e or я (depending on certain complicated rules). As in prerevolutionary Russian a "silent" ъ was written at the end of every word ending in a consonant.

V. <u>The Serbian and Croatian alphabets</u>.

Until early in the nineteenth century the Orthodox Serbs wrote their language using the Cyrillic alphabet of Church Slavic (or the Russian graždanka) while the Roman Catholic Croats first used the glagolitic alphabet (and occasionally the Cyrillic) and later the Latin alphabet, usually following the spelling traditions of Italian or Hungarian. Early in the 19th century Vuk Stefanović Karadžić, a self-taught genius who instigated a revolution in national education, undertook a thoroughgoing reform of the Serbian writing system. He abolished a number of Cyrillic letters which were unnecessary in writing Serbo-Croatian (as the language,

unlike Russian, does not contrast palatalized and non-palatalized consonants, there was no need for a dual set of vowel symbols or a soft sign). He also added certain letters necessary to write sounds peculiar to Serbo-Croatian, taking them, often with slight modifications, from already current versions of the Cyrillic alphabet, or in the case of j, from the Latin alphabet. After considerable opposition Vuk's reform caught on. At about the same time Ljudevit Gaj, a Croatian patriot and apostle of South Slav unity, undertook a similar reform of the Croatian writing system, taking the Latin alphabet as modified for writing Czech (see below) as a basis. Through a series of subsequent agreements, Gaj's Latin writing system and Vuk's Cyrillic writing system were brought into conformity, so that there is now a complete one to one congruence between the two systems. Each letter of Vuk's Cyrillic has one symbol (usually a single letter but in a few cases a digraph, i.e. combination of two letters) corresponding to it in Gaj's Latin system.

Latin (Croatian)	Cyrillic (Serbian)	approximate pronunciation	Latin (Croatian)	Cyrillic (Serbian)	approximate pronunciation
A a	А а	f<u>a</u>t	L l	Л л	"clear" l (as French or German)
B b	Б б	b	Lj lj	Љ љ	mill<u>i</u>on
C c	Ц ц	<u>ts</u>et<u>se</u>	M m	М м	m
Č č	Ч ч	<u>ch</u>url	N n	Н н	n
Ć ć	Ћ ћ	<u>ch</u>eep	Nj nj	Њ њ	can<u>y</u>on
D d	Д д	d	O o	О о	f<u>o</u>r
Dž dž	Џ џ	j<u>u</u>ry	P p	П п	p
Đ đ	Ђ ђ	j<u>ee</u>p	R r	Р р	trilled r
E e	Е е	b<u>e</u>t	S s	С с	s
F f	Ф ф	f	Š š	Ш ш	<u>sh</u>oal
G g	Г г	g<u>o</u>t	T t	Т т	t
H h	Х х	<u>h</u>at, Ba<u>ch</u>	U u	У у	f<u>oo</u>d
I i	И и	mach<u>i</u>ne	V v	В в	v
J j	Ј ј	<u>y</u>et	Z z	З з	z
K k	К к	k	Ž ž	Ж ж	mea<u>s</u>ure

Đ, đ is regularly used in Croatia, but when type is not available dj (in older publications sometimes gj) may be substituted for it. The Serbian Cyrillic alphabet is normally given in a different order (similar to Russian) than that in the table above, where the order of the Latin alphabet is followed to show equivalence.

VI. <u>The Macedonian writing system</u>.

Macedonian attained the status of a standard written language at the end of World War II (though, of course,

Macedonian Slavic dialects were spoken for centuries beforehand). To write it the Serbian Cyrillic alphabet was adopted, except that the letters h and ђ are not used, but instead Macedonian has the letters ќ (representing a ky sound like the c in cube) and ѓ (representing a gy sound). These are transcribed ḱ and ǵ. Occasionally too a letter s is used (from the Church Slavic Cyrillic alphabet) representing dz.

The Macedonian alphabet with suggested transliteration is:

А	а	a	Ј	ј	j	С	с	s
Б	б	b	К	к	k	Т	т	t
В	в	v	Л	л	l	Ќ	ќ	ḱ or k'
Г	г	g	Љ	љ	lj	У	у	u
Д	д	d	М	м	m	Ф	ф	f
Ѓ	ѓ	ǵ or g'	Н	н	n	Х	х	h
Е	е	e	Њ	њ	nj	Ц	ц	c
Ж	ж	ž	О	о	o	Ч	ч	č
З	з	z	П	п	p	Џ	џ	dž
S	s	dz	Р	р	r	Ш	ш	š
И	и	i						

Pronunciation is the same as of Serbian Cyrillic except ќ and ѓ mentioned above.

VII. The Czech Alphabet.

The first attempts to write in Slavic in the territory of present-day Czechoslovakia dated, of course, from the Moravian Mission of Sts. Cyril and Methodius. The script used was the glagolitic. Since the influence of the Salonican brothers was curtailed and eventually supplanted in the Moravian state by German missionary priests, who were adherents of Western, Latin Christianity, Latin largely supplanted Old Church Slavic as a liturgical and official language. The tradition of writing in Church Slavic, using the glagolitic script, lingered on in a few churches and monasteries, and to it we owe a few Church Slavic documents very interesting to the linguist because they show some West Slavic features, but eventually the glagolitic script died out in Bohemian territory. Consequently, when a few centuries later Czechs began to write their own language, they used the Latin alphabet. This alphabet in an ummodified form is far from ideal, for the Slavic languages have a number of consonant sounds which do not exist in Latin. The Czechs at first attempted to use various combinations of letters for their sounds which were not represented by any one Latin letter, probably

in imitation of the Germans who were also doing the same thing; also letters were marked by accents or dots, but those expedients remained unsystematic and a great number of inconsistent and conflicting conventions existed.

John Hus, the religious reformer, is credited with adapting, systematizing, and perfecting Czech writing conventions. Hus adopted as letters representing certain Czech consonant sounds Latin letters with the addition of dots over them and marked long vowels with an acute accent (´). The dots have since been transformed into the <u>háček</u> (ˇ), but in essence Hus's system remains to the present day.

In the Czech writing system the consonants, as noted below, have approximately the same sound as in English.

The following letters are different:

c -- ts in cats

ch -- like German ch in ach, Bach

j -- y in you

č -- ch in chew

ž -- zh, like s in pleasure (Russian ж)

š -- sh in shoe

ň -- ny in canyon

t' -- something like ty (or t in picture)

d'-- something like dy (or d in verdure)

ř -- something like rzh

g -- always as in got

In addition it is a convention of Czech spelling that t, d, n, (unmarked) are pronounced t', d', ň, when written before i or ě.

The vowels a e i o u are pronounced as in father, bet, pit (machine when long), for, put (rhyming with foot). The acute (´), and also the small circle over the ů, indicate the vowel is pronounced long. Y is always pronounced like i; ě indicates a short ye (in Czech terms je) and may be written after p b m v t d n.

The Czech alphabet in order is:

A a	E e	I i	Ň ň	S s	X x
B b	Ě ě	J j	O o	Š š	Y y
C c	F f	K k	P p	T t	Z z
Č č	G g	L l	Q q	Ť t'	Ž ž
D d	H h	M m	R r	U u	
Ď d'	Ch ch	N n	Ř ř	V v	

The letters Q and X are used only in words of foreign origin.

VII. The Slovak Writing System

Until the late eighteenth century, Slovak was not a written language (Latin, Hungarian, Czech and German were used at various times and places before that in Slovakia for writing; of course, the spoken language of the people was always some form of Slovak). When Slovaks began to write their language, they adopted the Czech writing system pretty much without change. Since Slovak has no ř sound, they did not need that letter. Slovak does have some sounds Czech does not. Thus l' represents an ly as in million, ä represents a sound something like the a of cat, ô represents a diphthong uo. Like Czech, Slovak y is pronounced i. The letters t d n l written before i and, with very few exceptions, e, are pronounced t' d' ň l'; ě is not written in Slovak.

The Slovak alphabet in order is:

A a	E e	K k	Ô ô	U u
Ä ä	F f	L l	P p	V v
B b	G g	L' l'	R r	X x
C c	H h	M m	S s	Y y
Č č	Ch ch	N n	Š š	Z z
D d	I i	Ň ň	T t	Ž ž
Ď d'	J j	O o	Ť t'	

IX. The Slovenian Writing System.

Slovenian was not much written before the nineteenth century and when it was, a spelling based on German was usually used. However, in the early nineteenth century, Slovenes began to use their language generally as a medium of writing and adopted a spelling system, like the Croats, based on the Czech system. For practical purposes, the Slovenian writing system may be considered identical with the Croatian (Serbo-Croatian Latin, for pronunciation see page 115) except that, not having the sounds ć and đ in their language, their writing system lacks those letters.

The Slovenian alphabet is:

A a	G g	N n	U u
B b	H h	O o	V v
C c	I i	P p	Z z
Č č	J j	R r	Ž ž
D d	K k	S s	
E e	L l	Š š	
F f	M m	T t	

X. The Polish Writing System.

Poland early entered the sphere of the western church with its concomitant Latin culture. Hence it is natural that Poles should have adopted the Latin alphabet when

they began to write their language. Further, in early medieval Poland, Czech cultural influence was very strong, so it is not unnatural that Czech writing conventions were adopted, but they dated from the period prior to Hus's systematization of Czech spelling, with the result that Polish spelling remains somewhat more complex than Czech.

To start with the vowels, we have:

a -- a as in father

e -- e as in bed

ą -- nasal o as in French salon, or o plus n or m

ę -- plain or nasal e, or e plus n or m

o -- o as in boy, for

i -- ee in beet

ẏ -- something like the vowel in unaccented can "kin", just "jist" (i.e. like Russian ы)

u -- oo in boot

ó -- represents the same sound as Polish u

Of the consonants, most represent approximately the same sound as in English.

Differing from English, we have:

w -- v as in vain

c -- ts as in cats, tsetse

j -- y as in you

ł -- w as in wood, now

h, ch -- like ch in German ach, Bach

The hushing-type sounds are represented thus:

sz -- something like sh as in sure

ż -- something like zh as in pleasure

cz -- something like ch as in church

dż -- something like j as in jury

rz represents the same sound as Polish ż

Another, different kind of Polish hushing sound (made further forward and higher in tone) is represented as follows:

ś -- something like sh as in sheep

ź -- something like zh as in beige

ć -- something like ch as in cheap

dź -- something like j as in jeep

These latter hushing sounds are written thus at word-end or before a consonant; before i they are written simply s z c dz; before another vowel they are written si zi ci dzi. Thus, the same sounds are represented in three different ways.

	1			2	
ś	dziś	'today'		siła	'force'
ź	źle	'evil'		zima	'winter'
ć	pić	'drink'		cicho	'quietly'
dź	dźwig	'elevator'		dziś	'today'

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ś	<u>si</u>ano	'hay'
ź	<u>zi</u>arno	'grain'
ć	<u>ci</u>ekawo	'interesting'
dź	<u>dzi</u>ało	'cannon'

Parallel with these, the "soft n" (<u>ny</u> as in can<u>yo</u>n) is written ń (before consonant or at word-end), n before i, and ni before vowel:

koń 'horse' nic 'nothing' nie 'not'

<u>Addendum</u>

The old style Cyrillic alphabet (used prior to Peter the Great's <u>graždanka</u> and to write Church Slavic) with transliteration:

(ǫ = nasal o ę = nasal e)

А	Б	В	Г	Д	Є	Ж	Ѕ	З	И
a	b	v	g	d	e	ž	dz	z	i

І	К	Л	М	Н	О	П	Р	С	Т
i	k	l	m	n	o	p	r	s	t

Ѹ	Ѹ	Ф	Х	Ѡ	Ц	Ч	Ш	Щ	Ъ
u	u	f	x	o	c	č	š	št	ŭ

Ы	Ь	Ѣ	Ю	Ꙗ	Ѫ	Ѧ	Ѯ	Ѱ	Ѳ	Ѵ
y	ĭ	ě	ju	ja	ǫ	ę	ks	ps	th	i